

Application No. 10/656,314
Response and Amendment dated April 18, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 17, 2004
Docket Number 26568/04006

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims replace all prior versions of the claims:

1. - 21. (cancelled)

22. (presently amended) ~~The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 21A~~ toilet cleaning tool for use with a swab having a head-receiving pocket, comprising:

a handle, and a cleaning head operatively connected to the handle, said cleaning head comprising first and second complimentary head sections that are separately slidable and pivotable with respect to one another, and each comprises corresponding edges including one front edge and two side edges, wherein said first and second head sections are movable one relative to the other between a loading position, a use position, and an unloading position, wherein each of said first and second head sections comprises corresponding edges including one front edge and two side edges, and

wherein in said loading position, said first and second head sections are engaged with their corresponding front and side edges substantially in contact, and

wherein in said use position, one or both of said first and second head sections are at least partially vertically displaced from one another and partially or fully disengaged from one another, and

wherein in said unloading position; said first and second head sections are partially disengaged and slidably displaced one relative to the other.

23. (presently amended) ~~The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 21A~~ toilet cleaning tool for use with a swab having a head-receiving pocket, comprising:

a handle, and a cleaning head operatively connected to the handle, said cleaning head comprising first and second complimentary head sections that are separately slidable and

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pivotal with respect to one another, and each comprises corresponding edges including one front edge and two side edges, wherein said first and second head sections are movable one relative to the other between a loading position, a use position, and an unloading position, wherein, when said tool is in the use position, all or a portion of one or both of said first and second head sections is pivotably moved away from one another by rotation around an axis that is parallel to one of their corresponding edges.

24. (previously presented) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 23, wherein, one or both of said first and second head sections is pivotably rotated around an axis that is parallel to and aligned with their corresponding front edges.

25. (presently amended) ~~The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 21~~ A toilet cleaning tool for use with a swab having a head-receiving pocket, comprising:
a handle, and a cleaning head operatively connected to the handle, said cleaning head comprising first and second complimentary head sections that are separately slidable and pivotal with respect to one another, and each comprises corresponding edges including one front edge and two side edges, wherein said first and second head sections are movable one relative to the other between a loading position, a use position, and an unloading position, and wherein, when said tool is in the unloading position, said first and second head sections are slidably moved one relative to another, whereby two of the edges of each of said first and second head sections are in partial contact and one of their edges are not aligned and not in contact.

26. (previously presented) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 25, wherein, the side edges of said first and second head sections are aligned and in partial contact and their front edges are not aligned and not in contact.

27. (previously presented) A toilet cleaning tool for use with a swab having a head-receiving

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pocket, the tool comprising a handle and a cleaning head operatively connected to the handle, the cleaning head comprising complementary head sections moveable with respect to one another between

a loading position in which the head sections are generally aligned for insertion of the cleaning head into the head-receiving pocket of the flushable swab, and alternatively between

a use position in which the head sections are at least partially separated from one another in a first direction to expand the cleaning head inside the head-receiving pocket for holding the swab on the head, and

an unloading position in which the head sections move apart in a second direction different from the first direction to expand the cleaning head at least partially outside the head-receiving pocket for removing the swab from the cleaning head.

28. (previously presented) The toilet cleaning tool of claim 27, comprising an actuator operatively connected from the handle to the cleaning head for moving the head sections between the loading position and the use position and, alternatively, between the loading position and the unloading position.

29. (previously presented) The toilet cleaning tool of claim 28, wherein the head sections pivot apart as they move between their loading and use positions.

30. (previously presented) The toilet cleaning tool of claim 28, wherein the head sections slide apart as they move between their loading and unloading positions.

31. (presently amended) A toilet cleaning tool according to claim ~~21~~22, comprising:
a cleaning swab having a head-receiving pocket that is removably attachable to the cleaning head.

32. (previously presented) A toilet cleaning tool according to claim 31, wherein said cleaning

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swab has a substantially trapezoidal shape and comprises one or more pieces, and said cleaning swab has four edges wherein three edges are closed and one edge is opened to form a pocket within the swab

33. (previously presented) A toilet cleaning tool according to claim 32, wherein said cleaning swab comprises two substantially complimentary pieces, each of said pieces having four edges, wherein at least three of the four edges of each piece are aligned, and wherein the swab is formed by substantially sealing together three of the four edges of the two pieces.
34. (previously presented) A toilet cleaning tool according to claim 31, wherein said cleaning swab comprises a material of about seventy five percent cotton by weight and twenty five percent rayon by weight.
35. (previously presented) A toilet cleaning tool according to claim 31, wherein said cleaning swab comprises a binder of poly vinyl acetate.
36. (previously presented) A toilet cleaning tool according to claim 31, wherein said cleaning swab comprises a surfactant.
37. (previously presented) A toilet cleaning tool according to claim 31, wherein said cleaning swab is attachable to said cleaning head when said toilet cleaning tool is in a loading position, and wherein said cleaning swab is displaceable from said cleaning head when said cleaning tool is in an unloading position.
38. (previously presented) A toilet cleaning tool according to claim 31, wherein said cleaning swab is displaceable from said cleaning head without causing rupture or destruction of said cleaning pad.
39. (presently amended) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim ~~21~~22, comprising an actuator.

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40. (previously presented) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 39, wherein the actuator is located in the handle and is in operable communication with one or both of said first and second head sections of said cleaning head.
41. (previously presented) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 40, wherein the actuator comprises a control rod which extends from said handle to one or both of said first and second head sections of said cleaning head.
42. (previously presented) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 41, wherein said control rod connects at the handle to a control button and connects at the cleaning head with one or both of said first and second head sections.
43. (previously presented) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 42, wherein said control button can be moved alternately between a loading position, a use position, and an unloading position.
44. (previously presented) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 40, wherein the actuator comprises a cam and at least one cam follower attached to one or both of said first and second head sections of said cleaning head.
45. (presently amended) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 2022, wherein said first and second head sections are substantially symmetrical.
46. (presently amended) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 2022, wherein one or both of said first and second head sections comprise one or more of protrusions, teeth, or surface texturing to facilitate gripping an attached cleaning swab.
47. (presently amended) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 2022, wherein one or both of said first and second head sections comprise one or more holes, slots or gaps to facilitate draining.

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48. (presently amended) The toilet cleaning tool according to claim 2022, comprising a caddy, said caddy comprising

a holder for supporting and storing said cleaning tool, said holder contoured to support said cleaning tool and comprising one or more holes for draining, and

a holder for a positioning a cleaning swab to facilitate hands-free attachment of a swab to the tool cleaning head.

49. (previously presented) A toilet cleaning tool, comprising:

a handle, and a cleaning head operatively connected to the handle, said cleaning head comprising first and second complimentary head sections that are separately slidable and pivotable with respect to one another, wherein said first and second head sections are movable one relative to the other between a loading position, a use position, and an unloading position,

an actuator located in the handle and in operable communication with one or both of said first and second head sections of said cleaning head, the actuator comprising

a control rod that extends from said handle to one or both of said first and second head sections of said cleaning head

a control button that can be moved alternately between a loading position, a use position, and an unloading position

a cam and at least one cam follower attached to one or both of said first and second head sections of said cleaning head, said cam follower being generally planar and having a first and a second end, wherein said cam follower is attached at its first end directly to said cam, and wherein said cam follower is attached at its second end to said cam by a spring, and wherein said cam follower is fixedly attached to one of said cleaning head sections, with the first end of said cam follower positioned closest to the

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handle, and the second end of said cam follower positioned opposite the handle and closest to the front edge of the cleaning head, whereby the cam can be actuated to move said cleaning head alternately from said loading position into said use position by rearward displacement of said cam and extension of said spring, and into said unloading position by forward displacement of said cam.